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10 January 1961

**SUBJECT: How Other Countries Regard the New
Administration**

1. The USSR is definitely looking ahead to a new
summit meeting after the Kennedy administration takes
office.

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2. The great importance the Soviet leaders attach
to an early top-level meeting with the incoming US
administration was reflected in a [redacted] state-
ment by Khrushchev that the 22nd Soviet Party Congress,
originally scheduled for February 1961, had been post-
poned until later in the year to give the USSR time to
establish contact with the new President. Khrushchev

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State Dept. review completed

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reportedly said he did not expect to meet with the new President until perhaps July. Moscow subsequently announced that the Party Congress will be held next October.

3. The Soviet premier, however, has emphasized to Western diplomats that he will not accept indefinite delays in arranging new negotiations and that the Berlin question must be settled during 1961. He has privately warned that unless the new US administration gives an early indication of willingness to negotiate, he will proceed with a separate peace treaty with East Germany.

4. Leading Soviet figures have stressed in private contacts with American officials that they hope the election will lead to an improvement in relations. Khrushchev told US Ambassador Thompson he is prepared for a "quiet exploration" on the Berlin issue and promised to keep an open mind on a solution which would protect US prestige. He also reiterated the Soviet position that any settlement must recognize the existence of two German states.

5. Mikoyan, commenting in private to Thompson on 6 December on the "manifesto" issued after the recent Moscow meeting of Communist parties, declared that its virulent attack on the US was a concession

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to the Chinese, but that this would not change the USSR's desire to improve relations with the US. According to a member of the Polish UN delegation, the main result of the Moscow meeting for Soviet policy is a compromise giving Khrushchev time to demonstrate that his policy of seeking an accommodation with the West at the negotiating table is correct from the bloc point of view. The Polish delegate also mentioned "next June" as a possible date for a summit meeting.

6. Remarks by First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov to Thompson appear to reflect the general attitude toward the President-elect in high Soviet circles. After indicating satisfaction with the election, Kuznetsov said he had been disturbed by some statements of Kennedy during the campaign and particularly by American press articles which indicated that one of the new administration's first actions would be to step up military expenditures and build up US military power to a position of clear superiority over the USSR. Observing that such moves would add to the tensions already existing between the US and the USSR, he urged Thompson to try to convince the President-elect that the USSR is not seeking to dominate the

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world by force or other means and that both sides should seek to build up a situation of trust and confidence.

7. The Communist bloc press and radio have hailed the election results as a defeat for the Eisenhower administration's "cold war" policies and a new opportunity to improve US-Soviet relations. Radio Moscow has widely publicized Khrushchev's message of greetings to President-elect Kennedy in which he said that any new American initiatives to improve the international situation "will always meet with the full understanding and support of the Soviet Government."

8. Communist China on the other hand has interpreted the election of Senator Kennedy as not holding out even a slight possibility that US policy will move toward a detente with Peiping. The Chinese Communist ambassador in Warsaw told US Ambassador Beam during one of their periodic meetings in early December that complete withdrawal of US forces from the Taiwan area is the only way to improve relations. Chou En-lai recently made the same point in an interview with a visiting Western journalist. Publicly, Peiping has continued to reiterate strongly its thesis that "US imperialism" has not and cannot change its "aggressive"

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9. Eastern European countries have tended in their press and radio to follow Moscow's line, although they have been somewhat less reluctant to criticize the President-elect and to voice doubts regarding any future US policy changes. One exception is Albania which along with North Korea and North Vietnam has expressed views similar to Peiping's, while Outer Mongolia has followed Moscow's lead.

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13. Officials of the Algerian provisional government believe that the election has improved prospects for favorable action by the US Government on Algeria--presumably American pressure on France to conclude a settlement on terms favorable to the rebels--but are also concerned that their recent dickering for Communist bloc aid might jeopardize such support from the US.

14. High Iranian officials have been asking embassy representatives worried questions about the

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policy of the new administration toward Iran; they have apparently concluded that President-elect Kennedy is hostile toward CENTO and not well-disposed toward the Iranian regime itself. The Shah and other Iranian leaders are said to feel the new administration would like to see nationalist followers of former Prime Minister Mossadeq win seats in the Iranian legislature in the impending elections.

15. Top government officials in Turkey are urging a change in US policy toward Turkey including greater emphasis on economic than on military aid. Several have told US diplomatic personnel that Ankara may not be able to continue to reject the "fantastic" offers of economic assistance from the USSR unless the US changes its aid policy.

16. Top Iraqi figures have argued with US diplomats in favor of a strong US stand in support of Algerian independence. The Tunisian minister of information (who reflects President Bourguiba's views) told a US official that Tunisians expect the new administration to take greater interest in African problems.

17. Public statements by leaders of foreign governments have generally stressed the hope for a "more flexible" policy by the new administration. In

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many countries of Asia and Africa, this is interpreted primarily as meaning closer relations with the United States, increases in American economic assistance programs, and, among several of the Arab countries, hope of US support for Algerian independence.

18. The Japanese Foreign Ministry has briefed the press that it expects the Kennedy administration to maintain and enhance American moral authority and develop economic and political power, to strengthen US leadership of the free world, and to take the initiative on East-West negotiations if the Communist bloc takes a reasonable stand. South Korean government and opposition figures alike have expressed fears that the US may adopt a "flexible" policy toward Peking which might jeopardize the anti-Communist posture of South Korea. High Indonesian officials have expressed hopes for better US understanding of underdeveloped nations; however, one minister said he does not look to any substantial US policy change. Other Asian countries, including Cambodia, Nepal and Pakistan have hailed Senator Kennedy's election as an omen of improved relations, but top Pakistani officials have also voiced concern that the US may now place less emphasis on CENTO and SEATO and on military aid to Pakistan.

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19. The UAR's government-controlled press has observed that campaign pledges of support for Israel may only have been for domestic American consumption, but warned that if they were fulfilled, a "clash" between the UAR and Israel could not be avoided.

20. A representative group of British Conservative MP's recently told US Minister Barbour they hope and expect the new administration to review the problem of admitting Communist China to the United Nations. In West Germany Adenauer and von Brentano have stated publicly they have great confidence in Senator Kennedy and that a change in US policy toward Germany does not appear in the offing.

Top Spanish officials have publicly voiced expressions of confidence in the policies of the new administration.

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21. Leading governmental figures in a number of Latin American countries, including Chile, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia, have hailed Senator Kennedy's election in glowing terms and have predicted better relations with the United States. The controlled Cuban press and radio, taking its cue from Castro's slanderous remarks about Senator Kennedy at the UN this fall, has virtually ignored the election. The Cuban news agency has hinted that Castro might be willing to negotiate differences with the US provided the new administration renounces all "aggressive" policies toward Cuba.

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